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BRIEFING

27 September 1956

ISRAELI-JORDANIAN CONFLICT

Tension remains high on the Israeli-Jordanian border following the heavy Israeli reprisal attack on Jordan Army positions south of Jerusalem Tuesday night. The frontier quiet has been restored, however.

Jordan's immediate response to the Israeli attack was to take refuge in diplomatic action, rather than resort to military measures. Jordan has meanwhile, claimed a military "victory", stating that the next move is up to Israel.

A. Jordan evidently does not desire to expand the incident into general conflict with Israel.

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B. While appealing both to Western ambassadors and to the UN to halt the Israeli aggression, Jordan also appealed to Iraq for immediate military assistance.

1. Iraq has heretofore hesitated to send troops into Jordan for fear of provoking Israel, and has not yet responded to this latest Jordanian appeal.

III. The Arab Joint Command has also remained notably silent on the subject of military action.

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The most immediate result of the Israeli reprisal may be to strain Jordan's ability to control the embittered Palestine Arabs in West Jordan (the majority of the country's population).

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